The Choice of the equipment left to the institutes and hospitals as per resource available.

Progress of construction of AIIMS like hospital in the country

†1130. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH and FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made so far in the setting up of hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in six backward States from the view point of medical facilities;

(b) what are the details of the amount sanctioned for the current year and the amount spent so far on the construction of these hospitals; and

(c) by when the construction work of these hospitals is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) to (c) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) which interalia envisages setting up of six AIIMS like hospitals in the under served States has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The PMSSY proposal was sent for clearance of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). However, it was decided to place it before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) who has recently cleared it. It is now proposed to upgrade 11 medical institutions apart from setting up 6 AIIMS-like institutions. The recommendations made by the COS are being examined for placing the proposal befor CCEA. During the current year 2005-06, though there is a provision of Rs. 250 Crores in the Budget Estimates (BE) for the entire Scheme, it has not been possible to undertake any activities relating to construction/upgradation for want of necessary clearances. The proposed new AIIMS like Institutions are expected to become operational after three years from the date of approval of the Scheme by the competent authority.

Developing herbal plants

1131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government has launched a project "Construction and Development of Medical Plants" which apart from contributing to domestic product, would also provide lucrative livelihood to the people;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar position exists in Orissa and Chhattisgarh in the form of Safed Musli, a vital constiuent for more than 100 herbal and medical preparations;

(d) whether proposals have been received by the Central Government for developing this herbal plant to improve the economy of the farmers of these backward States; and

(e) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Himachal Pradesh Government has launched various programmes on Conservation and Development of medicinal plants which include setting up of herbal gardens and Vanaspati Van project. National Medicinal Plant Board has been providing financial assistance to all the States under its Promotional and Contractual farming Scheme.

(c) to (e) Proposals have been received for providing assistance for cultibation of Safed Musli under Contractual Farming Scheme of National Medicinal Plants Board. Information regarding projects sanctioned in States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh by the Board is given below

ORISSA

Year	No. of Projects Sanctioned
2002-03	02
2003-04	44
2004-05	35
2005-06	04(till September, 2005)

CHHATTISGARH

Year	No. of Projects Sanctioned
2002-03	NIL
2003-04	47
2004-05	01
NIL	(till September, 2005)

Sanction of project received from the State Medicinal Plant Boards for various medicinal plants under the promotional and Contractual farming Scheme is an on-going activity.